Background

DigiGen is a European Horizon 2020 research project that is developing significant knowledge about how children and young people (ranging from 5-18 years old), a group growing up today often referred to as the Digital Generation, use and are affected by the technological transformations in their everyday lives.

The research is uncovering both harmful and beneficial effects of technology in the everyday lives of children and young people. This includes a focus on the family, educational institutions, leisure time and children and young people's civic participation.

DigiGen aims to fill current research gaps such as scarcity of qualitative research in this domain, lack of involvement of children and young people in the research design, and the under-representation of children under the age of 12.

An important aspect of DigiGen is its **aim to contribute to effective social, educational, and online safety policies and practices in collaboration with national and international stakeholders.** On European level, the DigiGen data will be highly relevant in relation to the Digital Decade, the updated Digital Education Action Plan, the European Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the European Pillar for Social Rights, and the updated Better Internet for Kids Strategy.

June 2021 marks the mid-term point of the DigiGen project which is why on **22 June 2021** we are organising the **DigiGen Policy Forum** which will take place online and bring together key policy, academic, and practice stakeholders working on securing safer and more beneficial use of digital technologies for children and young people. The forum will take a dialogic form in which provisional findings of the project are presented and the participants are consulted on the most important directions of DigiGen's future policy and practice engagement in view of the development of policy briefs and recommendations for a variety of audiences.

We aim to engage with **youth representatives, policy makers from the European, national and local level, civil society, education experts, and industry representatives**. The policy forum serves to better understand the needs of this variety of stakeholders in order to fully reach the potential DigiGen's data has to support you with evidence-based policy and practice recommendations.

When?
22 June 2021

Where?
Online via zoom

Working language:
English

DigiGen Policy Forum

Sharing information, needs and expectations on policies
and practices for the digital generation

DigiGen

Agenda
22 June 2021 | online policy forum
Moderator: Jennifer Baker

09:30-10:30	**Session 1 - Opening**
09.30 – 09.55	**Welcoming remarks** - *Opening by Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth* - *Halla Holmarsdottir, DigiGen project coordinator, OsloMet*
09.55-10:30	**Digital transformations and deprivation across Europe** Presentation on the diversity of technology use and access across Europe, focusing on digitally deprived, disengaged and unconfident children. - *Sara Ayllón, Associate Professor, University of Girona* Q&A
10:30-10:45	**Coffee break**
10:45 – 12.00	**Session 2**
10:45-10:55	**Growing up in the digital age – DigiGen's approach of the ecological systems theory** DigiGen builds on the ecological systems theory by Bronfenbrenner, placing the child within a system of relationships and interactions. As technology has become increasingly complex and available to children and young people, its impact should be taken into account when discussing the ecosystem influences on the digital generation. - *Halla Holmarsdottir, DigiGen Project Coordinator, OsloMet*
10:55-11:35	**The impact of technology on children and young people's everyday lives** DigiGen includes four focus areas: the family, education, leisure time, and civic participation. Our researchers will give a snapshot of the research in each of these areas, present expected outcomes and open the dialogue on how to use the upcoming data for policy and practice. - *Olaf Kapella, Senior Researcher, Austrian Institute for Family Studies, University of Vienna* - *Birgit Eickelmann, Professor for Educational Science, Paderborn University* - *Dimitris Parsanoglou, Senior Researcher, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences and Assistant Professor, University of the Aegean* - *Athina Karatzogianni, Professor in Media and Communication, University of Leicester*
11:35-12:00	**Plenary discussion**
12:00-13:00	**Lunch break**

13.00 – 14:30	**Session 3**
13:00 – 14:00	**Stakeholder panel – sharing perspectives on impact digital technologies** During this session, a variety of experts from different fields will be invited to share their perspectives on the impact of digital technologies and their efforts towards a safer and more beneficial use of ICTs for children and young people. The experts will set the stage for the stakeholder dialogues in session 4. - *Rossella Chiodo, Public Policy Manager, Facebook EU Affairs office* - *Paraskevi Fragopoulou, Professor, Coordinator of the Greek Safer Internet Center* - *Kati Nõlvak, Chief Expert of Smart Youth Work, Harno - Education and Youth Board, Estonia* - *Geir Ottestad, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Education, Norway* - *Ileana Rotaru, Associate Professor, West university of Timisoara, Romania* - *Lorcan Tuohy, BIK Youth Ambassador* - *Ekkehard Winter, Executive Director, Telekom Stiftung, Germany*
14:00-14:30	**Plenary discussion**
14:30-15:00	**Stretching break**
15:00 – 17:15	**Session 4** [**register separately for session 4 here**]
15:00-15:15	**Stakeholder dialogues – how can DigiGen meet its stakeholders' needs?** As a large amount of data, perspectives and research is emerging from the project, DigiGen is exploring the directions for its future policy and practice engagement. During this session, we will ask the participants about their needs and how DigiGen data could support their efforts. Introducing breakout rooms and discussion questions: - *Idunn Seland, Associate Professor, OsloMet* - *Maria Roth, Researcher, Babeș-Bolyai University*
15:15-16:00	**Breakout rooms** *Breakout room moderators:* - *Jacob Chammon, Managing Director, Forum Bildung Digitalisierung, Germany* - *Alf Kristian Kåring, Project Manager, Spillverket – computer game studio, Norway* - *Ott Oja, Management Board Member, VATEK - Estonian Mental Health and Well-being Coalition* - *Anca Velicu, Researcher, Institute of Sociology - the Romanian Academy, Romania*
16:00-16:15	**Tea break**
16:15-17:15	**Discussion and exchange in plenary** All participants and the DigiGen team members will meet each other back in the plenary to discuss the main messages and key takeaways for the DigiGen team as they move forward with their research and the formulation of policy and practice recommendations.
17:15-17:25	**Closing and farewell**